CALENDAR OF PRAYER

The following is a suggested Calendar for Prayer, for use over a period of 30 days:

Day 1 : The Executive Board of the Church Army (names on page 2), the 6 Standing Committees - the bi-monthly meetings.

Day 2 : Captain & Mrs. K.J. Cullen, Anthony & Belinda, Parish of Forbes, NSW.

Day 3 : Principal of the College, the Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Mrs. MacRobb, Michael and Katrina.

Day 4 : Sister N.J. Bridges, Children's Home, Melbourne, VIC.

Day 5 : Students of the College: Wendy Ferguson, Lyn Russell, Bruce Pay, Mark Rogers (for Australia), and Barbara Leatham, Wendy Woods, Len Taylor (for New Zealand).

Day 6 : Captain T. Brooks, Parish of Mayfield, N.S.W.

Day 7 : Sister E. Campbell, Parish of Riverwood, N.S.W.

Day 8 : Captain & Mrs. R.G. Eland, Lance and Paul, Leave of absence.

Day 9 : Captain & Mrs. L.T. Fernance, Faith and Warren, Parish of Emmaville N.S.W.

Day 10: Captain R.L. Gwilt, Federal Secretary, Mrs. Gwilt, Stephen, Andrew and Timothy, Belrose, N.S.W.

Day 11: Sister L.M. Bullard, Chaplain at high school hostel, and youth worker in Parish of Forbes, N.S.W.

Day 12: Captain and Mrs. R.J. Harris, Glenda and Kerrie, Leave of absence.

Day 13: Captain & Mrs. D.W. Hinchliffe, Andrew & Darren, Parish of Blacktown, N.S.W.

Day 14: Sister P.A. Free, Staff Officer, Belrose, N.S.W.

Day 15: Captain & Mrs. J.W. Joy, Parish of Kingsford, N.S.W.

Day 16: Captain & Mrs. J.K. Harding, Parish of Hurstville, N.S.W.

Day 17: Captain & Mrs. A. Malcolm, Andrew and Ruth, Yarrabah Aboriginal Settlement, Nth. Qld.

Day 18: Sister F.M. Herman, Parish of South Hurstville, N.S.W.

Day 19: Captain & Mrs. B. Mattinson, Andrew, Christopher, Warwick & Stuart, Parish of Campbelltown, N.S.W.

Day 20: Captain J. McKnight, "Alternative Culture" groups evangelism, Binna Burra, N.S.W.

Day 21: Captain C. Thiele, Parish of Lara, VIC.

Day 22: Captain N.A. Payne, Manager, the Church Army Bookshops, Newcastle, Grafton & Gosford, N.S.W., Mrs. Payne Andrea, Mark and Elizabeth.

Day 23: Captain A. Polgen, Sydney, N.S.W.

Day 24: The Rev. Captain N. Polgen, St. George's Homes, Rockhampton, Qld.

Day 25: The Church Army Women's Auxiliaries, in Newcastle and Sydney.

Day 26: Captain D.O. Quayle, Industrial Evangelism, in 4 factories in Sydney, N.S.W.

Day 27: Captain & Mrs. M. Tobin, Julie, Deborah & Christine, Parish of South Hedland, W.A.

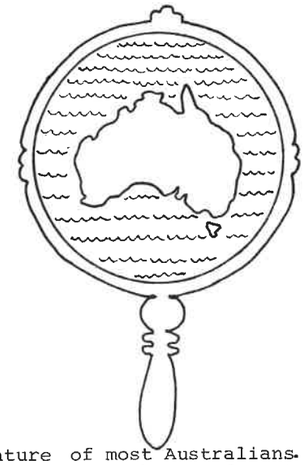
Day 28: Our needs - candidates, prayer, and financial support.

Day 29: Sister B.J. Rilatt, Leave of absence.

Day 30: Retired Officers and wives: the Rev. & Mrs. A.W. Batley, Mrs. C. Fisk, Sister G.A. Phillpot, Sister M. Pritchard, Mrs. J.S. Cowland, Sister I.B. Johnson, Sister E.N. Bacon.

REFLECTION ON AUSTRALIA

by Sister Josie Midwinter



It is hard to sum up in a few words the experience of my two years in Australia. Like most Poms, I arrived here with lots of misconceptions about Australia. I imagined most people living out in the bush, with kangaroos jumping around their heels and men with wide-brimmed hats with corks hanging down, going around calling each other "Cobber" or "Bluey".

I was surprised to find, on my arrival, that most people live in suburbia, have seen most of their kangaroos in a park and, apart from the odd 'stralian phrases, speak English! It took me quite a while to adjust to this different conception. However, one thing that struck me straight away was the very friendly and welcoming nature of most Australians. So it really did not take long for me to feel part of the Church Army here and part of the fellowship at St. Stephen's Church, Penrith.

As I look back over the past 2 years, I feel that I have gained immeasurably from my experience here. St. Stephen's is a big Parish and in my time there I have participated in door-to-door visitation, scripture classes (including a school for handicapped children), Bible Studies, Sunday worship and various other activities. This work has expanded my vision both for my future work and for my personal spiritual growth.

Church Army has also given me some great opportunities. I had the privilege of sharing in the Birthday weekends at Brisbane (1975) and Melbourne (1976). Also, the Rev. G. MacRobb, the College Principal, invited me to give a series of twelve lectures on the Background to the New Testament. This was a new experience for me, but Mr. MacRobb encouraged me and guided me. This also helped me in my studies for the Diploma in Theology, which I had begun the previous year.

When I set out for Australia, I had many plans in my mind about what I would do. But God has reminded me many times of this verse in Proverbs -

"Plans multiply in the human heart,
but the purpose of God stands firm." (Proverbs 19:21)

My plans were very puny compared with what God had planned for me and, as I look back, I marvel at how He has guided me through so many experiences.

THE FUTURE - From Australia, I go on to New Zealand to join with the Church Army there for two and a half months. Captain Dewdney has planned a very full and exciting programme for me there, which will include the opportunity to see much of New Zealand. I then hope to spend a few days in Fiji, and a couple of weeks in Canada, before flying on to the U.K. As yet, I do not know what work I will be undertaking there, but I am confident that God has the place marked out for me and I await His guidance.

From all the experience I have gained here the lesson that has come home to me most forcefully is that we must submit to God's Will in all matters - and the wonderful thing is that if we do that, He gives us far more than we ask for. So I praise God for my two years in Australia and thank those in Church Army and those at St. Stephen's and all people I have met here for making my stay such a rewarding and pleasant one.

NEWS and NOTES

A New Baby - *We are pleased to announce the arrival of a second son to Captain and Mrs. David Hinchliffe, on the 11th February. They have called the new baby* DARREN, *and he is a young brother for Andrew.*

Wedding Bells - By the time you read this issue, the Church Army "family" will have a new member. On Saturday, the 26th March, *Joan Schofield* will marry *Captain John Harding* at St. John's Church, Darlinghurst, N.S.W.

Joan comes from England, and spent last year at the Sydney Missionary and Bible College, Croydon N.S.W., in preparation for her ministry with John.

Three Silver Jubilees - *Towards the end of last year, three of our Officers completed 25 years' commissioned service with the Church Army. They are:-*

The Federal Secretary, Captain R.L. Gwilt.

Sister E. Campbell, *Parish Evangelist, Riverwood, N.S.W.*

Sister N.J. Bridges, *Children's Home, Melbourne, VIC.*

We take this opportunity to congratulate them publicly, and we are thankful to God for their ministries in the work of evangelism over those 25 years.

8th Star - Recently, a New Zealand Officer, *Captain S.R. Banyard,* received his 8th service star - having completed 56 years of ministry with the Church Army.

Originally from England, Captain Banyard led a team to New Zealand, in the 1930's, to begin the Church Army there.

1st Stars - On the 26th January, two Officers became eligible for their first service stars - for seven years' service. They are:-

Captain Les Fernance, Parish Evangelist, Emmaville, N.S.W.

Captain Mike Tobin, Parish Evangelist, South Hedland, W.A.

Christmas Appeal - *When our Christmas Appeal closed, the total was $2619.70.*

We are very thankful for those who contributed to the appeal, and we also take this opportunity to thank publicly those who sent anonymous donations, and those who requested that receipts not be sent to them.

Rallies -- At the end cf last year, our Officers' Committee decided that we would hold regular Rallies, in different parts of Sydney - to give up-to-date news of what we are doing, and to enccurage more support.

As we've mentioned before, one was held in St. Mark's Hall, South Hurstville, in November, 1976. Two are being planned for other areas:-

St. Alban's Lindfield, 7.45 p.m. Friday, 29th April.

Holy Trinity Kingsford, 7.45 p.m. Friday, 24th June.

Stamps - *Just a reminder that we are always grateful to receive used stamps, even the common ones - the sale of stamps greatly assists our General Funds.*

Wanted - A cornet, trumpet, tenor horn, or similar instrument - for use in our College.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

Congratulations!

At the end of last year, a member of the Board, the Rev. Barry Bevis, completed an Arts degree. He gained the degree as an external studies student of the University of South Africa - the oldest and largest university in South Africa. Mr. Bevis majored with Distinction in Systematic Theology, and completed a major in Sociology.

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Meet The Right Rev. Donald Shearman, *Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton, and a new member of our Executive Board.*

Bishop Shearman is no stranger to the Church Army, having had Officers serving in his Diocese. We are thrilled that he should agree to serve on the Board, and also on our Aims and Objectives Standing Committee.

The Bishop hails from Sydney, originally, where he worshipped at St. Mary's Concord North, then St. Paul's Burwood. Before World War 11, the family moved to Orange N.S.W. and attended Holy Trinity Church, where the Bishop was a chorister.

Two years in air crew at the end of the war were followed by studies in Pharmacy and work in his father's chemist shop in Orange. During that time he realised that, attractive as it might be to start off where his father was leaving off, that was not where his vocation lay.

So he entered St. John's Theological College, Morpeth, and was deaconed in 1950, priested in 1951. His calling has taken him to the following work situations:-

Parish of Dubbo - assistant priest; Parish of Forbes - assistant priest and Warden of St. John's Hostel (his wife was Matron); Rector of Coonabarabran; Department of Promotion, Diocese of Bathurst; Rector of Mildura, and Archdeacon of Mildura; Bishop of Rockhampton - consecrated 1964; Chairman of the Australian Board of Missions; Bishop of Grafton, from 1973.

In the Bishop's own words: "I love the work to which our Lord has called me and I also happen to enjoy it very much, which means that I spend most of my time at it. I think that the Diocese of Grafton has some of the most magnificent country and shoreline in Australia, and our own Diocesan Cathedral complex is set in the most superb environs. We are blessed with some excellent clergy and wonderful lay people, and I count myself among those most blessed to have the privilege of serving God and His people in this area."

The Bishop and his wife have 3 sons and 3 daughters, aged from 23 to 9.

His hobbies? - Fishing and Australian stamps - and, as he says, "I might add that there is a fair bit of apostolic precedent for me being a fisherman!"

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WHO SERVES ON THE BOARD?

Our Executive Board is made up of 16 people, who come from various work backgrounds. Because the Church Army exists to serve the whole Church, the members of the Board represent a variety of church traditions too.

Two others recently joined the Board, one from Sydney and one from Newcastle - more about them next issue.